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MOSQUITO-BITE RAIDS VS. CASTRO

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MIAMI.

The rarest commodity in the Cuban exile community here these days is the truth. But in wartime—and at least some exiles are at "war"—too much truth hurts and spreading lies is a virtue.

Last week, exile leader Manuel Ray was caught in one of those "virtuous" lies. He vowed for a year that he would be fighting Fidel Castro inside Cuba by May 20 or die trying.

Alive and embarrassed to tears, he was instead captured by a British destroyer in a Bahamian Key on June 1, his pledge unkept.

To make matters worse, his seven companions on the unfulfilled mission included two American photographers and a Cuban-born woman—hardly the kind of group that lends itself to a successful infiltration operation against a foe as powerful as Premier Castro.

THE REACTION

The ignoble arrest of Mr. Ray (he and the others were fined \$14 each for illegal entry by a Nassau magistrate) was greeted in Miami with gloomy suspicion and chortling glee, a normal reaction among the splintered exile groups.

The pro-Batista people here describe Mr. Ray's misadventure as a week-end party on Anguilla Key with "women and everything." Mr. Ray's supporters implied that there was a conspiracy between the U. S. and the British to pick the group up.

The Ray incidents is symptomatic of the

confusion rampant among the exiles here, and it spotlights the incredibly divisive effects of the Central Intelligence Agency's operations against the Castro regime.

Out of all the confusion, these points seem reasonably clear:

¶ The situation inside Cuba is still extremely tense, with the militia remaining on alert and brutal crackdowns against any sign of anti-government activity.

Yesterday it was announced that the regime had executed Cesar Diaz Infante, internal commerce director of Oriente Province; on Friday—the eighth accused CIA agent to die before a firing squad in as many days.

¶ The state of alert has taken thousands of men from their jobs in the fields and factories, a blow to the staggering Cuban economy.

¶ Mr. Ray's scare campaign before the May 20 date damaged the morale of the Cuban militia. If and when Mr. Ray does successfully infiltrate, this might pay off for him.

The one great point on the minus side is that those inside Cuba who felt they could depend on Mr. Ray's ability may now feel that he has proven himself inept and untrustworthy. If there were any Castro Cubans high on Mr. Ray's list of possible defectors, they might be having second thoughts.

The Cubans who know first-hand the difficulties of getting in and out of Cuba, make it plain that Mr. Ray might well have encountered serious trouble on his infiltration attempt. Exile infiltrators have in the past bobbed around the Caribbean for as long as 12 weeks before the time was right for their landing.

"You must remember," said a Cuban

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